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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 071850

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 /011 R

66632
DRAFTED BY: NEA: ARAPHEL
APPROVED BY: NEA: ARAPHEL
S/ S- O: S FRY
---------- 095128
O 172306 Z APR 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 071850

EXDIS

FOR ASST SECY SISCO

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT TEHRAN 2475 DATED 16 APR 73 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN JIDDA KUWAIT

QUOTE. S E C R E T TEHRAN 2475

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, AU, IR, US
SUBJ: KUWAIT REQUEST FOR AIR COVER

REF: TEHRAN 2372, AMMAN 1972

1. MFA POLITICAL UNDERSECRETARY FARTASH CONVOKED DCM APRIL 16 TO GIVE US GOI REACTION TO SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO DEAL WITH KUWAIT' S AIR COVER PROBLEMS (PARAS 2 AND 3 STATE 66152), AS SET FORTH BY AMBASSADOR TO FARTASH ON APRIL 12 (REF A).

2. FARTASH SAID IIAF HAD CONSIDERED MATTER OF PROVIDING AIR COVER FOR KUWAIT. ITS JUDGMENT WAS THAT IIAF HAD STRIKE CAPA- BILITY AGAINST ENEMY FORCES IN KUWAIT BUT VAHDATI AIR FORCE BASE FROM WHICH IIAF WOULD OPERATE WAS TOO FAR AWAY FROM
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KUWAIT FOR ANY KIND OF SUSTAINED AIR COVER PROTECTION. IN SHORT, IF KUWAIT WANTED SUSTAINED PROTECTION IIAF NOT IN POSITION AT PRESENT TO PROVIDE IT.

3. FARTASH ADDED GOI WAS WONDERING WHETHER SAUDIS HAD BASES AND AIRCRAFT FOR THIS PURPOSE. HE FRANKLY SAID IIAF DID NOT RPT NOT KNOW AND HE WONDERED WHETHER SUCH INFORMATION WERE AVAILABLE TO USG AND WHETHER USG COULD ENLIGHTEN GOI.

4. COMMENT: WE ARE INCLINED TO TAKE FARTASH' S REPLY AS WORKING LEVEL REACTION WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY CHECKED OUT WITH SHAH BUT WHICH DOES NOT FULLY REFLECT SHAH' S VIEWS ON SUBJECT. OUR VIEW IS THAT AMMAN' S 1972 IS MORE ACCURATE READING OF SHAH' S POSITION ON IRAN' S RELATIONS WITH KUWAIT IN LATTER' S PRESENT DIFFICULTIES.
HELMS

UNQUOTE. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS
*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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To: DACCA
Type: TE
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